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• IRIS • TALK •

AND A LIST OF
FIFTY GOOD
VARIETIES



THE SIMPSON IRIS GARDENS

BEARDED IRIS

THE FINEST AND
MOST BEAUTIFUL HARDY
PERENNIAL IN AMERICA TO-DAY

Truly, the most popular of all the hardy garden flowers, and it has been so voted by the Garden Clubs of America! The American Home of Garden City, Long Island, in a recent letter to growers also says "Forty per-cent of our readers who answered a recent questionnaire designated the Iris as their favorite hardy perennial."

There is no other flower grown that possesses all the desirable qualities that Nature has bestowed upon the Iris: its beautiful hues and charm of form; its profusion of bloom; its cleanness and neatness of foliage even when the plant is out of bloom; the ease of culture, a strong characteristic of it; and finally, its value for both landscape purposes—the distant view—and also for the close up, intimate view revealing the beauty of the individual flower.

The season comes to an end however, and it is just as well that it shouldn't last much longer than the usual thirty days for did it do so how the other flowers would suffer for admiration and for attention!

It's adaptability to serve either as a conspicuous front-yard or a less conspicuous back-yard flower, or for landscape purposes on large estates.

No other flower can equal it in range and diversity of coloring.

Once planted you do not have to divide the clumps for four, five or even six years; and, what is so important to all of us, it has fewer insect enemies and diseases than almost any popular flower grown—so few in fact and so easy to control that most of us do not have to bother about them!

Of course it is a spring-blooming flower only, but we feel that such a habit is a blessing after all for it gives the other garden plants a chance, after the four or five weeks of the glorious Iris time—a longer period, by the way, than many other spring flowers, shrubs and trees have.

But there are so many varieties listed by the growers that it is difficult for the average garden owner to know the finer ones unless they are seen in some nursery at blooming time.

The reliable grower wants to be of as much help as he can to a patron, so let's write down say, fifty varieties, each selling at a dollar or less, with some remarks here and there about them.

Naturally all colors should be represented in a list of this kind and we will begin with the whites and the delicate or pale colors. Remember the maximum limit is a dollar, tho nearly all can be had for much less.

Among the whites then we can place *Kashmir White* as being our best and most popular low-priced one in its color class; then the lovely *Fairy* which is not all-white but it gives this effect in a mass or at a short distance. *Anna Farr*, faintly tinted with pale blue is beautiful, and *Elfin White*, low growing, is the most snow-white of all the four.

The class having white standards (i.e., the upper petals) and dark falls (the lower petals), should not be passed by and of course *Rhein Nixe* receives first mention, while *Anne Leslie*, the low growing, is rich, tho small.

Belonging to the frilled or dotted class, *Damozel*, *Parisiana* and *Mme. Chobaut* are all attractive and desirable.

Then the pinks, or 'near pinks' as they really are, should be *Dream*, *Her Majesty* and *Georgia*; while the red-toned ones are *Seminole* (absolutely indispensable), *Edouard Michel* and *Col. Candelot*.

Then come the blue-purple, and those represented in this price class are *Amas*, *Crusader*, *Monsignor*, *Princess Royal*, *Mme. Gaudichau* and *Parc Neuilly*, the last two perhaps leading in popularity, tho we would dislike very

much to miss the early *Amas* and the late *Monsignor* as well as the others.

The great class of lavenders, lilac and violet shades includes so many beautiful things that it is hard to choose. We can start with *Ballerine*, which is a gem, follow it closely with the indispensable *Princess Beatrice*, and then will come, clamoring for our attention, *Queen Caterina*, *Melrose*, *Delicatissima*, and rounding off with *Mother of Pearl*, *Lord of June* (of exquisite coloring, tho with floppy standards), *Mlle. Schwartz* and *Sweet Lavender*.

Now we come to some of the most striking colors in the garden—the red-purples, and among them will be *Magnifica*, *Arlington* and *Kochii*, with many others just over our dollar limit.

Among the bright colored varieties with yellow standards and dark maroon or purple falls, are *Loreley*, *Flammenschwert* and *Princess Victoria Louise*. Following these are the yellows, of different shades and most of us like *Helge* (a very early kind), *Shekinah*, *Aurea*, *Flavescens* (for landscape purposes) and *Sherwin Wright*.

Finally, the large blended or bronze color class in which are some of the richest and most stunning varieties. Naming those in this price class, are *Alcazar*, a standard dark-colored favorite, *Ambassadeur* (one of the gems in the whole list), *Arnolds*, *L. A. Williamson*, *Prospero*, *Mme. Cheri*, *Sindjha*, *Jacquesiana* and *Quaker Lady*.

This makes the fifty to which we will confine ourselves in the price class mentioned, and they make a very, very attractive collection.



The price limit we set has however excluded some of the newer and fine things, selling all the way from \$1.25 upwards. For instance there is *Morning Splendor* (an elegant rich one), *Petruchio* (Mr. Morrison's best origination so far), *Senatobia* (an improvement over *Alcazar*),

Cardinal (unexcelled for richness), and *Geo. J. Tribolet* all among the finest dark colored kinds; neither could be mentioned the beautiful *Odoroloc*, *Loetitia Michaud* and *Asia*; the attractive *True Charm*, *Kenmore*, *San Gabriel*, *Loudoun* and *Crystalline* among the lighter colored ones; *Frieda Mohr*, *Aphrodite* and *Evadne* among the pinks or rose-reds; *Golden Glory*, *Coronation*, *Garden Yellow*, *Topazin* and *Gold Imperial* among the newer yellows.

There are indeed many beautiful ones priced just beyond the dollar class and one could make no mistake in securing two or three or even more of them each year, in order to add to and to create a new interest in your flower garden. And what an interest and anticipation there is in looking forward to something new and fine!

AN ELEGANT EFFECT

The beauty of even a few clumps of good varieties cannot be over-described, while that of many clumps or a mass planting, in full bloom is a glorious sight!

In order to get this clump effect quickly, try the planting of three or six roots together of one variety in this spot and of another in that spot, and so on. There are many inexpensive kinds that can be used in this way.

The Simpson Iris Gardens

GLEBE ROAD — LIVINGSTONE HTS

CHERRYDALE , VIRGINIA

